

place in the world of jazz music. He was one of the first musicians to successfully integrate the trombone into the intricate rhythms and phrasing of bebop. In later years, he worked as a composer and arranger, and during the 1970s wrote scores for several television shows and feature films.

Jazz is a national treasure and true American art form. In turn, jazz musicians should be lauded for their many contributions to American culture. It is in that vein that I salute the life and work of one of the jazz greats, James "J.J." Johnson.

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION MANOOGIAN-DEMIRDJIAN SCHOOL

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2001

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Armenian General Benevolent Union Manoogian-Demirdjian School in Canoga Park, CA.

On February 2, 1976, a concerned group of leaders from the Armenian General Benevolent Union, an international philanthropic organization headquartered in New York, established the Manoogian-Demirdjian private school in Van Nuys, CA with 19 students and 3 faculty members. I am pleased to inform you today that it now stands in Canoga Park, CA, with a student body of 958 and 104 faculty members.

Mr. Speaker, the Armenian General Benevolent Union Manoogian-Demirdjian School is now the largest Armenian School by population in North America. The high standards and academic achievements of the students have made it one of the most well-known private schools in southern California. I would like to mention that among this year's 60 Seniors, one received a perfect SAT score of 1600, one has been nominated to the Presidential Scholars Pool, and two others are National Merit Scholars.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join me in extending our congratulations to the AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School on its Silver anniversary and wish them continued success in future endeavors.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES FRANCO MINERVINI FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2001

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I wish today in recognition of Franco Minervini for his dedication to the cause of social justice for Italian-Americans. I applaud the achievements he has made fighting prejudice as an active member of his community and a positive contributor to our society.

Throughout his distinguished career as an artist, educator, and business owner, Franco Minervini has been a tireless advocate for central New Jersey's Italian-American community. As a member and former State Chairman of the Commission for Social Justice, the anti-defamation arm of the Order Sons of Italy in America, Franco has made it his lifelong goal "to fight our society's relaxed attitude toward prejudice."

Franco's achievements have won him praise from such organizations as the Ocean Township's Italian American Association, the National Police Defense Foundation and the Order Sons of Italy in America.

In addition to being a champion for Italian-American issues, Mr. Minervini is a nationally renowned sculptor and proprietor of the Freehold based Dependable Machinery Company. Franco has served as the program coordinator of "Italy's Heroes of the Holocaust", "A Debt to Honor", and "Yours is a Precious Witness" exhibits shown at both Brookdale Community College and Rowan University.

Once again, I applaud the efforts of Franco Minervini and ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing his steadfast commitment to serving our community.

EFFECTIVE DATES FOR AWARDS TO VETERANS' SURVIVORS

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2001

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation which would permit the families of veterans who died as a result of a service-connected injury to collect benefits from the date of the veteran's death.

On August 27, 1984, L.H. Bailey died in the VA Medical Center in Honolulu of lung cancer. Mr. Bailey had served in the Vietnam theater and received the Vietnam Service medal. In 1993 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determined that lung cancer was a medical condition related to Agent Orange exposure.

Following the announcement of the Secretary's determination, Mr. Bailey's widow filed for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation based on the Secretary's determination and was granted benefits from August 6, 1993, the date the VA received her claim. However, she received no benefits for the nearly nine years between Mr. Bailey's death and the date the VA determined that as a matter of law the lung cancer was caused by exposure to Agent Orange.

It is unfair to deny the families of veterans benefits due solely to a delay on the part of the VA to acknowledge that the veteran died as a result of his military service. Mr. Bailey and other veterans died as a result of their service to their country. Their families should not be punished because the VA was slow to recognize the cause of their death.

My bill corrects this unfairness. It requires the VA to grant the families Dependency and Indemnity Compensation awards from the date of the veteran's death, regardless of when the VA acknowledged the service-connection of the veterans death.

I urge my colleagues to join with me in co-sponsoring this legislation.

ALASKA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT QUOTA PROGRAM

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2001

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, in 1992 the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council established, and the Secretary of Commerce by regulation began implementing, the western Alaska community development quota (CDQ) program. Over the past nine years, the CDQ program has made a valuable contribution to improving economic and social conditions in the small Alaska Native villages on the coast of the Bering Sea that participate in the program.

In 1994 a question was raised whether the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) authorized the Council to establish and the Secretary to implement the CDQ program. In response, in 1996 I sponsored a provision that the 104th Congress enacted as section 111 of the Sustainable Fisheries Act that amended the Magnuson-Stevens Act to explicitly authorize the CDQ program.

The provision—section 305(i)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act—settled the authorization question; however, it does not provide guidance to the Secretary for implementing the CDQ program, nor does it authorize the state of Alaska to assist the Secretary to implement the program or establish the terms and conditions for the state's participation.

In addition, over the past nine years the business activities of the six groups that the eligible communities have organized to participate in the CDQ program have become increasingly sophisticated. Initially, each CDQ group simply contracted with an existing fishing company to harvest the share of the total allowable catch of Bering Sea pollock that the group was allocated. In exchange, the group received a royalty payment from the company, as well as employment opportunities for village residents and other local economic development benefits. However, today the CDQ groups are participating in all Bering Sea directed fisheries through substantial equity interests in established fishing companies. In addition, in 1998 when it enacted the American Fisheries Act the 105th Congress created a loan program—contained in section 211(e) of the American Fisheries Act—that encourages CDQ groups to make additional investments.

It is important that the implementation of the CDQ program reflect these new realities. For that reason, Congress needs to provide the Secretary, the CDQ groups, the fishing companies in which the CDQ groups own equity interests, and the state of Alaska clear guidance regarding how the CDQ program should be implemented.

Last October I introduced H.R. 5565 whose enactment would have amended section 305(i)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act to provide that guidance. Unfortunately, there was